



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

FARMERS MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO EARLIER PLANTING INTENTIONS

NASHVILLE, June 30, 2010 – Changes in price patterns and widespread spring flooding led Tennessee farmers to alter their planting intentions for the 2010 crop year. Based on a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, cotton growers planted significantly more acreage than in 2009 and more than intended on March 1 of this year. Corn acreage is down from earlier March intentions, as the aforementioned flooding during May caused farmers shift to alternative crops. Soybean acreage is expected to decline over 100,000 acres from 2009's near-record crop. Crop acreages and changes from last year are as follows: **Cotton**, 400,000 acres, up 33 percent; **Soybeans**, 1.45 million acres, down 8 percent; **Corn**, 680,000 acres, up 1 percent; **Tobacco**, 22,300 acres, up 3 percent; **Wheat**, 280,000 acres, down 35 percent; and **Hay**, 1.92 million acres, unchanged from a year earlier.

COTTON ACREAGE UP A THIRD

Cotton acreage for 2010 is estimated at 400,000 acres, up 100,000 from last year. Spring price rallies, the relative returns compared with other crops, and normal crop rotation in the major producing counties back to cotton led to the rise above intended acres and last year. The flood event occurred prior to planting much acreage, but some was re-planted in low spots. As of June 27, the cotton crop was squaring and was rated in mostly good condition.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE DECLINES

Tennessee's 2010 soybean acreage is estimated at 1.45 million acres, down 120,000 acres from 2009, but up 20,000 acres from earlier March intentions. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.41 million acres, also down 120,000 acres from 2009. Tennessee producers experienced record-breaking May rainfall which flooded some corn acres. Many of these producers were unable to re-plant corn and switched to soybeans. The soybean crop is rated in mostly good condition.

CORN DOWN FROM EARLIER INTENTIONS

The State's corn acreage is estimated at 680,000 acres, down 30,000 from March intentions, but up 10,000 acres from last year. Growers expect to harvest 600,000 acres for grain, also up 10,000 acres from a year earlier. Despite the widespread flooding of thousands of acres, prolonged wet field conditions and re-plants, corn planting was mostly completed by the end of May. However, as a result of these delays and losses, some producers opted to switch over to other crops. The corn crop is developing at a pace one week ahead of the five-year average, due to the scorching June temperatures.

BURLEY ACREAGE UP; DARK TYPES TO DECREASE

The State's burley tobacco acreage is forecast to increase by 1,000 acres from the previous year to 15,000 acres. Total tobacco acreage, which includes burley, dark fire-cured and dark air-cured, is set at a total of 22,300 acres, up 700 acres from a year earlier. The dark-types are both expected to be down from last year. Dark tobacco acreage and changes from 2009 are as follows: dark fire-cured, 6,200 acres, down 3 percent; dark air-cured, 1,100 acres, down 8 percent. As of June 27, 96 percent of the crop was transplanted, on pace with the five-year average.

(OVER)

WHEAT ACREAGE PLUNGES

The winter wheat planted area for the 2010 season is estimated at 280,000 acres, down 150,000 acres from 2009. Grain harvest is expected to reach 190,000 acres, also down 150,000 acres from 2009. An extremely wet fall caused planting delays and caused farmers to stretch the planting window into mid-December. These delays coupled with normal crop rotation led to the plunge. As of June 27, 91 percent of the crop had been harvested, a few days ahead of the normal pace.

HAY ACREAGE REMAINS STEADY

Tennessee producers intend to harvest 1.92 million acres of hay in 2010, unchanged from a year earlier. Alfalfa acreage is estimated at 15,000 acres, unchanged from last year. All other hay is estimated at 1.90 million acres, also unchanged from 2009. Due to heavy flooding across West and Middle Tennessee in May, many farmers suffered delays cutting hay due to standing water, mud, and debris. Much of the hay passed its prime for a quality spring cutting, but many farmers expect fields to be in shape to harvest later this year. Adequate hay stocks make it unlikely for farmers to increase harvested hay acreage significantly.

Planted and Harvested Acreage of Principal Crops: Tennessee and U.S., 2009-2010

Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2010/2009
	1,000 Acres				Percent
TENNESSEE					
Corn	670	680	590	600	102
Cotton	300	400	280	¹	-
Soybeans	1,570	1,450	1,530	1,410	92
Winter Wheat	430	280	340	190	56
Hay, all	-	-	1,915	1,915	100
Alfalfa	-	-	15	15	100
All Other	-	-	1,900	1,900	100
Tobacco, all	-	-	21.60	22.30	103
Dark fire-cured	-	-	6.40	6.20	97
Burley	-	-	14.00	15.00	107
Dark air-cured	-	-	1.20	1.10	92
UNITED STATES					
Corn	86,482	87,872	79,590	81,005	102
Cotton ²	9,149.5	10,909.0	7,528.7	¹	-
Soybeans	77,451	78,868	76,372	77,986	102
Winter Wheat	43,311	37,723	34,485	32,085	93
Hay, all	-	-	59,755	59,656	100
Alfalfa	-	-	21,227	20,732	98
All Other	-	-	38,528	38,924	101
Tobacco, all	-	-	354.24	327.27	92
Dark fire-cured	-	-	16.15	15.40	95
Burley	-	-	101.90	91.30	90
Dark air-cured	-	-	5.80	5.90	102

¹Estimate to be released August 12, 2010. ²U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.